

of the tibia from an overlying ulcer. He joined the Army in the early days of the war and was for a time stationed in the Orkney Isles. He went with the invading forces to Normandy and, when operating on casualties there, himself received a fatal wound. A sound clinician, he had a gently friendly way with patients and his life was one of unstinted service.

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FREDERIC PERCIVAL MACKIE, C.S.I., O.B.E.,  
M.D., M.Sc., D.P.H. (Bristol), F.R.C.S.

AN old Bristol student of very great distinction has recently passed away in Colonel F. P. Mackie. He was son of a late rector of Filton. Educated at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, Mackie entered the Bristol Medical School and University College in 1892, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., in 1897. He took his F.R.C.S. England in 1902, and after the University of Bristol was established he obtained the degrees of M.Sc. and M.D., as well as the D.P.H. in that University. In 1902 he entered the I.M.S., studying at Netley under Sir Almroth Wright, obtaining a Scholarship in Surgery, and following this with the Gold Medal in Medicine. He accompanied Younghusband on his expedition to Thibet. For the details of his subsequent career we are indebted to the *Lancet*.

On return in 1905 he became assistant director of the Plague Research Laboratory, Bombay, and was associated with the work of the Indian Plague Commission. There he made what was probably his chief contribution to medicine in the discovery, in 1907, of the transmission of relapsing fever by the body-louse—a discovery that led Nicolle to demonstrate a similar method of conveyance in typhus. In 1908, at the request of the Government of India, he was appointed a member of the Royal Society's sleeping-sickness commission and worked for over two years in Uganda and Kenya on trypanosomiasis and its connection with the indigenous fauna. From now on his name appeared in the publications with that of his chief, Sir David Bruce, Lady Bruce and his friend and colleague of the R.A.M.C., Colonel A. E. Hamerton. In 1911 he was employed in special research on kala-azar in Assam.

Thereafter Mackie saw active military service in Baluchistan and during the 1914-18 war in France and Mesopotamia, being mentioned twice in dispatches and receiving the O.B.E. Returning to India in 1920 he became, successively, director of the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, and in 1923 of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay. In 1928 he was appointed chairman of the plague committee of the League of Nations and officiating public health commissioner to the Government of India, later officiating surgeon-general with the Bombay Government. Just before he retired in 1932 he acted once more as director of the Research Laboratory in Shillong. At this time he published, with B. P. B. Naidu, an important paper on the serum therapy of plague (*Lancet*, 1931, ii, 893). Mackie was representative of the Government of India at the Office International d'Hygiène Publique at Paris in 1919, 1922,

1926, and 1930; president of the tropical diseases section at the centenary meeting of the British Medical Association in July, 1925, and president of the medical and veterinary section of the Indian Science Congress in 1925. In 1933 he joined the staff of the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London as pathologist and he remained there for five years. During that time he published papers on the pathology of the brain in trypanosomiasis (1935), and with Hamilton Fairley a contribution on a peculiar streptothrichal infection hitherto undescribed. In 1937 he surprised his friends by taking, despite his age, the appointment of chief medical officer of the British Overseas Airways Corporation. In this capacity he travelled thousands of miles from one end of Africa to the other, not apparently in any way affected by heat or fatigue, and was able to his great delight to view from the air herds of game in those vast wild regions where, as a young man, he hunted them on foot. His main interest in recent years was in the prevention of yellow fever on aerodromes in Africa, and research into the disinsectization of aircraft.

Mackie was twice married and had three sons, one by his first wife and two by his second wife who survives him.

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FREDERICK JOHN POYNTON, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P.

FREDERICK JOHN POYNTON was born at Kelston rectory, Bath, in 1869. On leaving Marlborough College he started his medical education at University College, Bristol, and continued it at St. Mary's Hospital where he won a scholarship in Anatomy and Physiology. He qualified in 1893, and rapidly showed the absorbing interest in children which largely determined his medical career. A disciple of Cheadle and Barlow, the two great figures in British Pædiatrics at the end of the last century, he was appointed to the staff of Great Ormond Street in 1900, and in 1903 became assistant physician to University College Hospital with charge of the Children's ward. He loved children and children loved him. In 1931, when President of the British Pædiatric Association, he said that "he who has brought a smile to the face of a dying child has had a glimpse of the eternal." Those who have been privileged to see Poynton handling a sick child will know that he must have had many such glimpses.

Poynton enjoyed teaching and his enthusiasm, frankness of speech and essential honesty of purpose endeared him to all students. Many of his old house physicians and registrars owe much of their later success in life to his tremendous inspiration and encouragement. The famous Saturday morning rounds at Great Ormond Street will never be forgotten by those who participated in them and, judging from the number of overseas visitors who attended, they must at one time have had an almost international fame.

His great work on the aetiology of acute rheumatism perhaps reached its climax in 1913 when he published in *Researches on Rheumatism* the collected results of fifteen years' work. His main thesis was that acute rheumatism is due to a streptococcus. This view has, of course,